

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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T'ongsōn-myōn Area

1. From 1 February to 10 April 1952, the North Korean Army Arsenal Number 60 operated in the T'ongsōn-myōn¹ (N 39-12, E 126-08) (BU-5242) region. This arsenal used Soviet dies to manufacture 120 mm mortars, M1938; 82 mm mortars, M1937; 7.62 mm Tokarev pistols, TT M1933; and 7.62 mm sub-machine guns, PPSh M1941. It also produced PPSh-41 ammunition and repaired all types of arms except heavy artillery.
2. Some of the arsenal installations were in five tunnels:
 - a. The first tunnel had a 9 x 9 foot entrance at BU-531451. During operations a yellowish-brown smoke smelling like ammonia sometimes was emitted following the sound of a small explosion.² Workers in this tunnel wore clean civilian clothing. About 20 guards were stationed inside and outside the tunnel.
 - b. The second tunnel had a 7 x 7 foot entrance at BU-529449. Two water pipes, one about 20 centimeters in diameter, the other about 10 centimeters, led into the tunnel. No guards were assigned to this tunnel.
 - c. The third tunnel was at BU-529448. It housed the consumers union and no security guards were assigned. Daily newspapers, labor news, reports and propaganda were posted on two bulletin boards at the entrance. About 15 persons worked in this tunnel.

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- d. The fourth and fifth tunnels were at approximately BU-530444 with their entrances about 2.5 meters apart. Considerable activity took place at these two tunnels with trucks arriving and leaving throughout the day and night. Traffic was especially heavy during the night. The trucks belonged to the arsenal, and to the North Korean and Chinese Communist armies. Most of the trucks arrived empty but all left loaded with wooden boxes of arms and ammunition. These two tunnels were more substantially constructed than the others, having been made in solid rock. A guard armed with a PPSH-41 was on duty twenty-four hours a day.
- 3. Other arsenal installations included:
 - a. Two transformer stations, one at BU-534442, the other at BU-524450. Six high tension lines led into the transformers and six 10,000-volt lines ran from the transformers to the arsenal. The two transformers at BU-534442 were about 70 and 45 centimeters (sic) in height. One transformer about 80 centimeters (sic) high and another about 60 centimeters (sic) high were at BU-524450.
 - b. A testing range where ammunition and weapons were tested nearly every day. The range occupied an open space of about 600 square yards with two wooden targets at its north end at BU-532446.
 - c. A small machine shop at BU-535441.
 - d. A water pumping station at BU-528450.
 - e. Two houses at BU-531445 for billeting the security guard force. The force consisted of about 100 persons, 30 of them women. About 20 guards were assigned to duty each day while the others underwent training in the mountains. Most of the security force gathered at these billets between 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. About 50 PPSH's were available for use of these guards.
- 4. About 2,000 persons were employed at the arsenal. The women were from 18 to 40 years of age and the men from 18 to 45. Labor Party members made up about 40 percent of the total. Others were war orphans, discharged soldiers, local villagers and citizens recruited from other parts of North Korea. The factory operated on a 24-hour basis with three shifts. Soviet advisors and technicians were assigned to every shift.
- 5. Arsenal workers were paid from about 950 won to 4,500 won monthly. Besides his pay, each worker drew a free grain ration. Technicians got a daily ration of 1,000 grams, clerks 600 grams and laborers 800 grams. Free clothing rations consisted of North Korean army cotton padded uniforms for winter wear, and six yards of cotton cloth per person, plus summer clothing from Korea, the USSR, Hungary, Czechoslovakia or China. Each worker also received one pair of Czechoslovakian leather shoes and two or three pairs of canvas shoes annually.
- 6. All employees were exempt from military and other labor service. Since the factory was controlled by the North Korean army, workers were subject to military discipline with punishment and rewards meted out on the army basis. For exceeding production quotas, saving raw materials, reporting espionage and reactionary elements and for perfect attendance, workers received the Medal of Merit or the National Flag Medal. Other rewards were cloth, underwear, rubber shoes and cash.

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25X1X 65 Arsenal near Sogarhyon

7. In mid-October 1952, a North Korean army arsenal was near Sogarhyon (N 38-53, E 125-14) (XD-9406) in seven dugouts and two grass-roofed houses at XD-941051. These dugouts were eight meters long, eight meters wide and five meters deep. This arsenal was formerly in the P'yongyang area at YD-3619 where it was called the North Korean Army 65 Arsenal. It employed approximately 50 people. An army colonel, KIM Yong-sun (6855/3057/8642), managed the arsenal.
8. The shop was operated 12 hours a day. Two-hundred 105 mm shells were produced daily. Scrap iron collected in North Korea and brass imported from Manchuria were used in making this ammunition. It was believed the shells were being shipped to Chinnamp'o (N 38-44, E 125-24) (YC-0989).

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1. [] Comment. [] an arsenal called Factory Number 65 of the Ministry of Industry was operating near Kunja-ri (N 39-14, E 126-08) (BU-5346) at BU-536460 in June 1952.

2. [] Comment. Technical authorities say this could conceivably be an explosives plant, but additional information would be needed for positive identification.

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